

By: Representative Watson

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE LIFE AND  
2 LEGACY OF MR. SAMUEL EARL WILSON III, AND EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO  
3 HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our  
5 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far  
6 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at  
7 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:  
8 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which  
9 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and  
10 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of  
11 dearly beloved, Samuel Earl Wilson III, to rest eternally, as he  
12 has made life's final transition from earthly travailing to  
13 heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and  
14 friends; and

15 WHEREAS, Forrest County, particularly the community of  
16 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, lost a wonderful friend, true public  
17 servant and revered educator with the passing of Mr. Samuel Earl  
18 Wilson III, on Monday, August 16, 2021, and there is now a hush in



19 our hearts as we come together to pay our respects to the memory  
20 of one who has been called to join that innumerable heavenly  
21 caravan; and

22 WHEREAS, born in Hattiesburg on June 3, 1933, to the late Mr.  
23 Samuel Earl Wilson II, and Mrs. Myrtle Wright Wilson, Mr. Wilson  
24 possessed a zeal for life that was complimented by his personal  
25 determination to do his best in any endeavor undertaken, which was  
26 made evident in his decision to pursue his postsecondary education  
27 after graduating from Springfield High School in 1950, a decision  
28 that directed his path to Atlanta's prestigious Morehouse College,  
29 where he acquired his bachelor of science degree in physical  
30 education/biology before returning to his beloved Hattiesburg to  
31 attain a master of science degree from the University of Southern  
32 Mississippi; and

33 WHEREAS, equipped with an arsenal of instructional tools,  
34 gained during his matriculation at Morehouse, Mr. Wilson commenced  
35 his professional career as a teacher and coach in 1955 at Mattie  
36 Jones High School in Richton, Mississippi, where he remained for  
37 the next 11 years, with the exception of the two years he devoted  
38 in service to the United States Armed Forces, while stationed at  
39 Fort Huachuca, Arizona, from 1956 to 1958, before receiving an  
40 honorable discharge to return to Mattie Jones High School; and

41 WHEREAS, upon the completion of his inaugural tenure in  
42 education at Mattie Jones, Mr. Wilson worked briefly at Carver  
43 High School in the neighboring community of Collins, before



44 accepting a three-year teaching position at Tappan Zee High  
45 School, in Orangeburg, New York, before committing the remaining  
46 22 years of his lived New York experience as a science teacher and  
47 coach with the Clarkstown Central School District until retiring  
48 in 1994; and

49 WHEREAS, upon concluding the final chapter of his 25-year  
50 career in New York, Mr. Wilson once again heeded the infallible  
51 tug on his heartstrings to return to his native and forever home  
52 of Hattiesburg, where, again he answered the beckoning call to  
53 fulfill his passion to inspire future generations through academic  
54 impartation, and devoted two additional years to the classroom,  
55 before officially entering the hallowed halls of retirement; and

56 WHEREAS, because Mr. Wilson believed in giving back to the  
57 community that had given so much to him, he always found time to  
58 volunteer, as evidenced by his affiliations with Mount Carmel  
59 Baptist Church, YMCA (director of Hi-Y Clubs), Boy Scouts of  
60 America (troop counselor), New York State Teachers Association,  
61 Clarkstown Teacher Association, NEA, Rockland County Science  
62 Teacher Association, National Science Teachers Association, IAABO  
63 (basketball), The Elks IBPOEW, New York and State of Mississippi  
64 Coaching Association and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., of  
65 which he was a charter member of the Hattiesburg Alumni Chapter;  
66 and

67 WHEREAS, a successful championship coach with 14 titles  
68 across the spectrum of sports disciplines, Mr. Wilson has crossed



69 the threshold to the finish line to unite in triumphant victory  
70 and a kindred spirit's embrace from his previously departed  
71 parents, and sisters, Bettye Moore and Johnnye Romero, yet the  
72 legacy of his memory will forever be etched in the hearts and  
73 memories of his survivors, including: his wife, Ruby Jewel  
74 Burkett Wilson; adopted son and nephew, Tradis Lanier Burkett  
75 (Phyllis); and a host of other special nieces, nephews, other  
76 relatives and friends; and

77 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the  
78 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their  
79 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Mr.  
80 Wilson fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence to  
81 the commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good fight,  
82 finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour of his  
83 departure was at hand"; and

84 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
85 commend the lives of such remarkable individuals, as evidenced by  
86 the life and merits of Mr. Wilson, whose gift of employing his  
87 finite wisdom and heightened educational acumen inspired  
88 generations of aspiring talents to become men and women of great  
89 rapport in their respective walks of life:

90 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
91 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
92 mourn the loss and commend the life and legacy of service of Mr.



93 Samuel Earl Wilson III, and extend deepest sympathy to his family  
94 and friends upon his passing.

95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
96 furnished to the family of Mr. Samuel Earl Wilson III and to the  
97 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

